

JUNEAU COMMISSION ON AGING

City & Borough of Juneau

Minutes of Regular Meeting

August 13, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

The Commission met at the Senior Center. Chairperson VandeCastle called the meeting to order at 1:21 p.m. Other members present were: Mary Lou Spartz, Dixie Hood, and Pat Watt. Also attending were Representative Sam Kito, Marie Darlin, and James Nelson.

AGENDA; DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

The agenda was adopted. It was declared that a quorum of members was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meetings on May 14 and June 11 were approved.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED

Ms. Watt reported that in June she was appointed by the Assembly to the new empowered Aquatics Board. The 7-member Board has met twice and appointed 4 committees. The new Board's charge is to increase participation and revenues.

Ms. Hood attended a regular monthly meeting at the Filipino Community Center and explained what the Commission on Aging does and encouraged participation by Filipino seniors. She passed out Board and Commission application forms provided by the CBJ City Clerk's office. She noted that a Filipino family is interested in setting up an Assisted Living arrangement in its home and was looking for help in identifying the licensing requirements.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Report to the Assembly. The Board discussed the draft Annual Report prepared by the Chairperson, made some modifications and approved it for submission to the Assembly. Ms. VandeCastle, as Chair, will attend the Assembly Human Resources Committee meeting on Monday August 17 to present the report. (See attachment.)

Request to Assembly to Consider Appointing a Liaison. The Commission believes that good communication between it and the Assembly is very important if senior issues are to be addressed. The voluntary presence of Mr. Nankervis at many meetings has been helpful and members determined that a designated Assembly member attending its meetings would be most useful as we move forward. Recognizing the busy schedule of each Assembly member, it requested that the monthly minutes of Commission meetings be included in a monthly Assembly package.

Review of Ordinance Establishing the Commission on Aging. The Commission reviewed a discussion draft of possible changes prepared by Ms. Watt (see attached) and considered expanding its membership to include persons under 65 involved in senior issues, as well as to

include representatives from the other key organizations involved in senior services. This expansion would put the Commission in a stronger position to work on implementing the goals of the Juneau Economic Plan according to the Assembly's preferences. The group also reviewed its powers and duties as spelled out in the current version of the Ordinance and considered modifications to the language to better reflect what was realistically possible for the Commission to do. The group agreed that the Commission needs more resources if it is to accomplish its goals, and there is a great need for improved coordination with other senior serving agencies. This discussion will continue at the next meeting and the resulting recommendations will be forwarded to the Assembly at that time. Ms. VandeCastle will ascertain which CBJ staff person is serving as point person on the implementation of the Juneau Economic Plan, and will invite that person to an upcoming meeting.

Senior Sales Tax Exemption. The Commission discussed whether to provide further input to the Assembly as it comes to closure on this issue. Since there was no consensus among the group, it decided that members should provide their own input if they wished, but to note such input did not reflect Commission views.

Senior Recreation Needs. The Commission approved a letter to Mr. Duncan, Director of Parks and Recreation, as a followup to his presentation at our meeting in April. (See attachment.)

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. VandeCastle provided information about the potential privatization of the Pioneer Homes. Commission members are concerned about privatization of human service functions, since experience has shown that under private ownership quality of services can suffer at the expense of generating increased revenues for the owners. The Chair will try to get a speaker from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Pioneer Homes to explain the plans further.

CONCLUSION

The next meeting of the JCOA will be on September 10 at 1:15 pm at the Juneau Senior Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.